

Applicants : Chad D. Lquist, Francis O'Brien and Niall R. Lynch
Serial No. : 09/817,874
Filed : March 26, 2001
Entitled : INTERACTIVE AUTOMOTIVE REARVISION SYSTEM
Group : 3632

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiners review of the specification of claims and drawings. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-85 are pending in the application.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner objects to the drawings and requires legends be provided for FIGs. 5, 6, and 9. The Examiner also rejects the drawings as failing to illustrate "a portion of said reflector being at least partially removed to form a window", as called for in Claims 26, 50 and 52. Applicants submit herewith a proposed drawing correction, which applicants believe overcome the objections to the drawings. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objects to Claim 47 for a typographical error. Accordingly, applicants have amended Claim 47, which is now believed to overcome the objection by the Examiner. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 47.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER U.S. 35 USC §112

The Examiner rejects Claims 26, 50 and 52 under 35 USC §112 first paragraph. The Examiner alleges that the specification fails to disclose the limitation of "a portion of said reflector being at least partially removed to form a window". Applicants respectfully refers the Examiner to Page 16, Lines 10-13 of the specification, where it is described that for details of suitable reflective elements with portions of the reflective mirror coating adapted to permit light to transmit through the reflective element or of a highly reflecting/significantly transreflective element, reference is made to U.S. Patents Nos. 5,668,663 and 5,724,187. These patents describe how to create windows in a mirror by removing at least a portion of the reflector and, therefore, provide support for the claimed feature.

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Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of 35 USC §112 first paragraph rejection of the claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER U.S. 35 USC §102

Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 4-6, 8, 19, 20, 53, 55, 58 and 59 under U.S. 35 USC §102 as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 5,566,224 to Ul Azam et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse. Notwithstanding, applicants have amended Claims 1 and 53 to more clearly define applicants' invention, which now call for:

Claim 1:

An interactive vehicular mirror system comprising:

an interior rearview mirror assembly having a mirror casing and a reflective element, said mirror assembly being adapted to mount at an interior portion of the vehicle, and said reflective element having a rearward field of view when said interior mirror assembly is mounted in a vehicle;

at least one user actuatable selector element, said user actuatable selector element comprising a touch sensitive element;

a display element provided at said interior rearview mirror assembly;

said display element generating a display;
said display viewable to an occupant of the vehicle at said reflective element;

said display being generated in response to said user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user; and
said display element and said user actuatable selector element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of the user actuatable selector element by a user and said generation of said display.

Applicants respectfully urge that Ul Azam does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination. For example, Ul Azam does not disclose or suggest a display element provided at an interior rearview mirror assembly, which generates a display that is viewable to an occupant of the vehicle at the reflective element, with the display being generated in response to a user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user, and with the display element and user actuatable selector element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of the user actuatable selector element by a user and said generation of the display. Nor would it be obvious to modify Ul Azam to meet the claimed combination.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 and its dependent claims, namely, Claims 3, 4-6, 8, 19, and 20, are patentably distinguishable over UI Azam alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

With reference to Claim 53, Claim 53 has been amended to call for:

Claim 53:
An interactive vehicular mirror system
comprising:
an interior mirror assembly having a mirror
casing and a reflective element, said interior mirror assembly
being adapted to mount at an interior portion of a vehicle, said
reflective element having a rearward field of view when said
interior rearview mirror assembly is mounted to the vehicle and
a plurality of user actuatable selector elements;
a display element; and
at least one of said selector elements activating
said display element to display at least one display and wherein
actuation of another selector element changes the display
displayed by said display element to another display.

Applicants respectfully urge that UI Azam does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination. For example, UI Azam does not disclose or suggest a mirror system with an interior mirror assembly having a plurality of user actuatable selector elements, a display element, and at least one of the selector elements activating the display element to display at least one display and wherein actuation of another selector element changes the display displayed by the display element to another display. Nor would it be obvious to modify UI Azam to meet the claimed combination.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 53 and its dependent claims, namely, Claims 55, 58 and 59, are patentably distinguishable over UI Azam alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER U.S. 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejects Claims 2, 7, 21, 54 and 56-57 under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over UI Azam et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,124,886 to Deline et al.

Claims 2, 7 and 21 depend from amended Claim 1 thus incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully urge that Claims 2, 7

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and 21 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claim 1.

Furthermore, applicants respectfully submit that Deline does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam. For example, Deline does not disclose or suggest a display element provided at an interior rearview mirror assembly, which generates a display that is viewable to an occupant of the vehicle at the reflective element, with the display being generated in response to a user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user, and with the display element and user actuatable selector element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of the user actuatable selector element by a user and said generation of the display.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 7, and 21 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Deline or any other reference of record.

Claim 54 and 56-57 depends from amended Claim 53 and thus incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 53. Accordingly, applicants respectfully urge that Claims 54, 56 and 57 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claim 53. Furthermore, applicants respectfully urge that Deline does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. For example, Deline et al. do not disclose or suggest a mirror system with an interior mirror assembly having a plurality of user actuatable selector elements, a display element, and at least one of the selector elements activating the display element to display at least one display and wherein actuation of another selector element changes the display displayed by the display element to another display.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 54, 56, and 57 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Deline or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects the Claims 9-14, 22-25, 27 and 60 under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,707,570 to Ide et al.

Claims 9-14, 22-25 and 27 depend from amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 9-14, 22-25 and 27 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. for reasons set forth in the above reference to Claim 1. Furthermore, Ide does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. For example, Ide does not disclose or suggest a display element provided at an

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interior rearview mirror assembly, which generates a display that is viewable to an occupant of the vehicle at the reflective element, with the display being generated in response to a user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user, and with the display element and user actuatable selector element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of the user actuatable selector element by a user and said generation of the display.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 9-14, 22-25 and 27 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Ide or any other reference of record.

With reference to Claim 60, Claim 60 depends from amended Claim 53 and, therefore, incorporates the same limitations as amended Claim 53. Accordingly, Claim 60 is patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. for reasons set forth in the above reference to Claim 53. Furthermore Ide does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. For example,, Ide does not disclose or suggest a mirror system with an interior mirror assembly having a plurality of user actuatable selector elements, a display element, and at least one of the selector elements activating the display element to display at least one display and wherein actuation of another selector element changes the display displayed by the display element to another display.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 60 is patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Ide or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claim 26 under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam et al. in view of Ide et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,416,313 to Larson et al.

Claim 26 depends from amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 26 is patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. for reasons set forth in the above reference to Claim 1. Furthermore, neither Ide nor Larson cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. For example, neither Ide nor Larson discloses or suggests a display element provided at an interior rearview mirror assembly, which generates a display that is viewable to an occupant of the vehicle at the reflective element, with the display being generated in response to a user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user, and with the display element and user

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actuatable selector element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of the user actuatable selector element by a user and the generation of the display.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 26 is patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Ide or Larson or any other reference of record.

Claims 7, 15-18, 28-34, 41-48, 51 and 61-64 are rejected under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,708,804 to Goodwin et al.

Claims 7 and 15-18 depend from amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 15-18 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. for reasons set forth in the above reference to Claim 1. Furthermore, Goodwin does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. For example, Goodwin does not disclose or suggest a display element provided at an interior rearview mirror assembly, which generates a display that is viewable to an occupant of the vehicle at the reflective element, with the display being generated in response to a user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user, and with the display element and user actuatable selector element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of the user actuatable selector element by a user and the generation of the display.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 7 and 15-18 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Goodwin or any other reference of record.

With reference to Claim 28, Claim 28 has been amended to more clearly defines applicants' invention, which now calls for:

Claim 28:
An interactive vehicular mirror system
comprising:
an interior rearview mirror assembly having a
mirror casing and a reflective element, said mirror assembly
being adapted to mount at an interior portion of the vehicle, and
said reflective element having a rearward field of view when
said interior mirror assembly is mounted in a vehicle;
a plurality of display elements comprising a first
display element and a second display element;
a respective plurality of touch sensitive elements
associated with said plurality of display elements, said plurality

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of touch sensitive elements comprising a first touch sensitive element and a second touch sensitive element;
said first and second display elements and
provided at said interior mirror assembly;
said first touch sensitive element being at least
one of co-located and adjacent said first display element, and
said second touch sensitive element being at least one of co-
located and adjacent said second display element such that a
cognitive relationship is established between actuation of said
touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by said
display elements; and
a first display being generated by said first
display element associated with said first touch sensitive
element at least when said first touch sensitive element is
actuated, and a second display being generated by said second
display element associated with said second touch sensitive
element at least when said second touch sensitive element is
actuated.

Applicants respectfully urge that neither Ul Azam nor Goodwin discloses or suggests the claimed combination. For example, neither Ul Azam nor Goodwin discloses or suggests first and second display elements in combination with first and second touch sensitive elements, with the first and second display elements provided at an interior mirror assembly, with the first touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent the first display element, the second touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent the second display element such that a cognitive relationship is established between actuation of the touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by the display elements, and further with a first display being generated by the first display element associated with the first touch sensitive element at least when the first touch sensitive element is actuated, and a second display being generated by the second display element associated with the second touch sensitive element at least when the second touch sensitive element is actuated.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 28 and its dependent claims, namely, Claim 29-34, 41-48, and 51, are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Goodwin or any other reference of record.

With reference to Claims 61-64, Claims 61-64 depend from amended Claim 53 and, therefore, incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 53. Accordingly, Claims 61-64 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. for reasons set forth in the

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above reference to Claim 53. Furthermore Goodwin does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. For example, Goodwin does not disclose or suggest a mirror system with an interior mirror assembly having a plurality of user actuatable selector elements, a display element, and at least one of the selector elements activating the display element to display at least one display and wherein actuation of another selector element changes the display displayed by the display element to another display.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 61-64 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Goodwin or any other reference of record.

Claims 35-40 are rejected under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam et al. in view of Goodwin et al. and Ide et al.

Claims 35-40 depend from amended Claim 28 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. and Goodwin for at least the reasons set forth in the above reference to Claim 28. Furthermore, Ide does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. or Goodwin. For example, Ide does not disclose or suggest first and second display elements in combination with first and second touch sensitive elements, with the first and second display elements provided at an interior mirror assembly, with the first touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent the first display element, the second touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent the second display element such that a cognitive relationship is established between actuation of the touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by the display elements, and further with a first display being generated by the first display element associated with the first touch sensitive element at least when the first touch sensitive element is actuated, and a second display being generated by the second display element associated with the second touch sensitive element at least when the second touch sensitive element is actuated.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 35-40 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Goodwin or Ide or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 49-50 under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam et al. in view of Goodwin et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,202,607 to Washizuka et al.

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Claims 49-50 depend from amended Claim 28 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. and Goodwin for at least the reasons set forth in the above reference to Claim 28. Furthermore, Washizuka does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. or Goodwin. For example, Washizuka does not disclose or suggest first and second display elements in combination with first and second touch sensitive elements, with the first and second display elements provided at an interior mirror assembly, with the first touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent the first display element, the second touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent the second display element such that a cognitive relationship is established between actuation of the touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by the display elements, and further with a first display being generated by the first display element associated with the first touch sensitive element at least when the first touch sensitive element is actuated, and a second display being generated by the second display element associated with the second touch sensitive element at least when the second touch sensitive element is actuated.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 49-50 are patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Goodwin or Washizuka or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claim 52 under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam et al. in view of Goodwin et al. and Larson et al.

Claim 52 depends from amended Claim 28 is patentably distinguishable over Ul Azam et al. and Goodwin for at least the reasons set forth in the above reference to Claim 28. Furthermore, Larson does not cure the deficiencies of Ul Azam et al. or Goodwin. For example, Larson does not disclose or suggest first and second display elements in combination with first and second touch sensitive elements, with the first and second display elements provided at an interior mirror assembly, with the first touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent the first display element, the second touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent the second display element such that a cognitive relationship is established between actuation of the touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by the display elements, and further with a first display being generated by the first display element associated with the first touch sensitive element at least when the first touch sensitive element is actuated, and a second display being generated by the second display element associated with the second touch sensitive element at least when the second touch sensitive element is actuated.

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the second display element associated with the second touch sensitive element at least when
the second touch sensitive element is actuated.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 52 is patentably
distinguishable over Ul Azam alone or in combination with Goodwin or Larson or any other
reference of record.

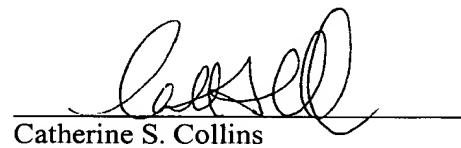
In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request
reconsideration of the present application and Notice of Allowance of all claims, namely
Claims 1-85 . Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited
to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHAD D. QUIST ET AL.

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

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Catherine S. Collins
Registration No. 37 599
2851 Charlevoix Drive, S.E., Suite 207
P.O. Box 888695
Grand Rapids, MI 49588-8695
(616) 975-5506